

Humboldt Historical Society  
Interview with Mr. William F. (Bill) Harvey,  
Blacksmith

Interviewed by Jeanne Bast, Eureka  
8/7/88

Time: 65 minutes

Index No.

Subject:

- 0.00- Came west from Charleston, South Carolina. Saw  
0.38 an ad. for Northern California and implication that  
\$20.00 gold pieces were available for "the picking".
- 0.40- Went to Detroit, Michigan from Charleston; occupation  
0.63 was farrier (horse shoe). Joined U.S. Army for  
3 years. Detail of enlistment, including Philippines.  
To 1905; discharged in S.F.
- 0.64- Job at Angel Island as horse shoe then to No.  
0.83 California to visit Bob Mallory at Alton. Then met  
Owen Hammel and joined him in blacksmithing and  
woodworking business.
- 0.84 Old-time stages built at Rehnerville. Mr. Danlatch  
1.40 & Chester Stears bought stages.  
Construction of stages described in detail. Swedish  
(hard) iron first used to manufacture the king bolts. Later  
the manufacture of "soft" steel make king bolts better.
- 1.40- Stage driver (Captain Allen) mentioned & his run from  
Pt. Arena to Cazadero.
- 1.59- Story of breakdown on run related.
- 1.60-1.80- More on stage drivers and description of  
stagecoach operation.
- 1.81-1.99 "Roads" very poor; coach brakes described and  
difficulties encountered. Use of alder wood and  
redwood for constructing brake blocks finally  
worked best.
- 2.00- "Looks" of stages described in detail.  
2.44



Interview with Mr. Wm. F. Harvey cont'd.

<u>Index No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>
2.46-2.68	Passengers (6-8) and freight described.
2.69-2.93	Names of stage drivers: Morrison, Thompson, Decker and others. Worked out of Trinidad
2.94-3.00	General comments on owners and stage drivers
3.01-3.11	Change in transportation from stages to motor stage in 1910. Reed boys (Sp.?) Harlow, Ernie and Bert, were first men in Humboldt County to be in automobile business and Charlie Stoddard in Arcata.
3.40	Description of design of first motor stage chassis (Mr. Fred Flaherty helped in first construction). Described in detail
3.41-3.62	First trip made O.K. Second trip derailed - motor stage ended up in river. Putting stage in working order again described. "Difficult but successful."
3.63	Rio trucks then purchased for motor stage -- chain-driven.
3.80	"No roads, no brakes, lots of rain" in pioneer days of automobile stages.

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